

# The Telegraph

## Prince of Wales out of touch, poll shows

The Prince of Wales has suffered a major setback on the eve of his 12-day tour of Canada as a private poll has shown two thirds of the country thinks that he is out of date and out of touch.



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The survey, which was conducted by friends of the Royal family in Canada, also shows more than half of the country, 52 per cent, no longer believe there should be a King or Queen as head of state.

The poll of 1,400 people also shows that only one in five Canadians would make an effort to go to see the Prince even if he was nearby. The results come just days before the Prince and Duchess of Cornwall head to Canada.

Support for the monarchy and the Prince has fallen sharply among young people with just over 70 per cent of people born after 1970 agreeing that the institution “did not fit with the modern world”. One third of those surveyed believe that the Queen would be the last monarch of Canada.

The 15-page report says: “The monarchy in Canada faces the threat of an ebbing tide. The tide’s recess is caused not by anger, resentment or republican ideology but by disinterest. In 2009, Canadians’ indifference is the monarchy’s biggest challenge. There is a heavy fog of apathy shrouding the institution as a whole.

“While there are problems there are also obvious solutions. It is our early opinion that the Prince of Wales must act swiftly to stem the ebbing tide of Canadian interest at this crucial moment in the monarchy’s long history. Inaction in the face of this challenge carries great risk with grave consequences.”

The survey, which was obtained by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, also showed that 47 per cent had not realised that the Queen, who has visited Canada more than any other country, was head of state.

There are positive elements for the Prince of Wales as almost half, 46 per cent thought that he was doing a good job, while 34 per cent thought he was doing a “poor or extremely poor” job, while 62 per cent thought that Queen was doing a “fair, good or excellent” job.

“Sadly, the vast majority of respondents also said that they have not seen much of Prince Charles in the news recently – 22.7 per cent claimed they have not seen read or heard anything about the Prince.”

The Prince, who has invested huge amounts of time and energy in his campaign against global warming, will be dismayed that his efforts have made no impact in Canada which he has visited 15 times. The majority of people surveyed had no clue that he was championing international action on climate change.

The survey says: “The findings about issues and causes championed by the Prince show a troubling disconnect.

While Canadians would like to hear a public leader speak about practically any of the Prince's forward looking issues, they did not associate the Prince with any of them. The elements are there for the Prince to leap ahead staid perceptions about the monarchy."

Brian Tobin, a former Liberal Cabinet minister, said: "It's a little bit silly don't you think that in the world today Canada has a head of state, somebody who is born in another country, to be our Head of State. We can't come to some other arrangement among ourselves? I don't accept that and I think it's an appropriate time and I think the time is coming soon, we ought to make a change."

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